

# Kodály Educators of Iowa



October 2005, Volume 1

## KEI Kicks Off The Year With A Bang!

The 2005-06 school year began with a record-breaking workshop, and the year to come promises to be an exciting one!



On Saturday, September 24, more than 40 participants gathered at ISU for a two-part workshop with clinician Leigh Ann Mock-Garner. This uniquely tailored

workshop featured two different sessions: *The Pint-Sized Musician - Vocal and Beat Competencies in Early Childhood* and *Let's Get Started! Motivating Materials for the Older Beginner*. Throughout the course of the day, we covered a large span of musical development - from 24 months to upper elementary. Leigh Ann demonstrated the importance of readiness in preparation for musical learning for any age group.

This workshop was a first for the chapter in many ways. Attendance was the largest for any of our workshops, and almost half of those participating were college students! We also had a very successful mini-version of a West Music bookstore, selling nearly every item on the table. We will continue to utilize this resource at future workshops. We offered certificates of attendance to all participants for use as artifacts in our teaching portfolios. Finally, this

workshop was funded by a chapter grant from the Midwest Kodály Music Educators of America (MKMEA). A big thanks to our division for awarding us this honor. Kudos to all who helped in the organization of this workshop, from registration to creating the brochures to bringing snacks. Thanks to ISU Music for the continued use of their space.

## Five Members Attend MKMEA



Marsha Fries, Sonia Johnson, Kay Kracher, Cynthia Marten and Mary Phelps made the trip to Kansas City, MO to attend the MKMEA convention, *Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City*. The convention featured something for everyone with sessions covering early

childhood, folk music and games, curriculum, music through the grades, reading sessions and performances. Presenters included Sister Lorna Zemke, Alan Spurgeon, Ruth Dwyer, Ivy Rawlins and Joy Nelson. The conference also featured an honor choir of 83 upper elementary students from seven midwestern states. The next convention will be held in St. Louis, MO in the fall of 2007. There will be no convention next fall because the midwest division will host the national OAKE conference.

## Dr. Brent Gault to Present Workshop



On January 21, 2006, KEI will host a workshop featuring OAKE president-elect Dr. Brent Gault. Dr. Gault holds a Ph.D from Hartt, a M.M. from Silver Lake and a B.M.E. from Baylor, as well as training in Orff and Dalcroze. He has presented workshops at national conventions of OAKE and AOSA, as well as local and regional conventions including MENC, Indiana Music Educators and Indiana Kodály Educators. Dr. Gault is Assistant Professor of Music at the Indiana University School of Music where he teaches courses in elementary and early childhood music education. He is also the program director for the Indiana University Children's Choir and conductor of the Boy's Choir.

## KEI Members to Present at IMEA

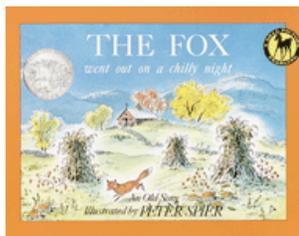
In November, KEI will once again take part in the annual IMEA convention in Ames. Last year, board members presented a session entitled *Singing Games that Teach* to a full house - over 50 in attendance! This year's session *Hands-On Music Literacy* will highlight ideas for improving melodic and rhythmic reading in the general music classroom.

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## Kris VerSteegt Receives Scholarship

This past summer Kris VerSteegt received funding from the Iowa Alliance for Arts Education to take Level 1 Orff at Drake. The only requirement for the scholarship is that applicant be teaching the arts in Iowa. Kris says that the application was very easy to fill out, and she received not only the workshop fee but also money for classroom materials. Anyone interested in applying for this scholarship for a summer course next summer should contact the IAAE or Esther D'Agrosa for details. Congrats Kris!

## Check This Out!



### Looking for a new picture book of an old American Song?

Many of you may already be familiar with this classic folk tale. A great recording was done by the bluegrass band Nickel Creek, which can be found on iTunes and purchased for only \$.99! The book is available from Amazon.com, but you may discover that your school library already has a copy. I hope that you enjoy the song as much as my students and I did!

## KEI Welcomes New Member Michelle Droe

KEI extends an Iowa welcome to our newest member, Michelle Droe. Michelle moved here with her family from Colorado, and she is teaching in the Cedar Falls area. As it turns out, Michelle already knew someone in our chapter. Michelle and Sonia took Level II together at the University of St. Thomas and lived across the hall from each other. Welcome to the Hawkeye State Michelle!

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KEI is an affiliate of the Organization of American Kodály Educators

[www.oake.org](http://www.oake.org)

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